

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 198999  
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

66011

DRAFTED BY S/S:DANDERSON

APPROVED BY S/S:DANDERSON

-----119763 201533Z /50

O 201514Z AUG 77 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 198999

NODIS

CHEROKEE-LAGOS FOR AMB YOUNG, FOR AMBASSADORS ONLY

FOLLOWING REPEAT PRETORIA 4238 ACTION STATE AUG 20.

QUOTE S E C R E T PRETORIA 4238

NODIS CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PARM, SF

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM

REF: STATE 198014,

1. I SAW BRAND FOURIE AT 10:00 AND MADE THE POINTS CONTAINED  
REFTEL.

2. HE SAID HE COULD NOT GET THROUGH TO VORSTER AND BOTHA  
UNTIL AFTER THE CAUCUS MORNING SESSION IN CAPE TOWN, BUT  
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WOULD BE SURE TO DO SO THEN. HE WAS NOT CERTAIN HOW FAST HE  
COULD GET ME AN ANSWER. THERE ARE POLICY QUESTIONS INVOLVED,  
HE NOTED, AND DID NOT KNOW HOW LONG IT WOULD TAKE THE PM TO  
TOUCH THE NECESSARY BASES. LOOKING OVER THE THREE  
AFFIRMATIONS REQUESTED, HE EXPRESSED A PERSONAL OPINION  
THAT AT LEAST SOME OF THEM COULD BE MADE WITHOUT  
DIFFICULTY. HE REGRETTED THAT THIS MATTER HAD COME UP OVER

A WEEKEND WHEN ALL THE PRINCIPAL POLICY MAKERS WERE OUT OF TOWN CONCENTRATING ON ANOTHER ISSUE OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO SOUTH AFRICA. HE UNDERSTOOD THE PROBLEM WE FACE AT LAGOS AND THE UN AND WANTS TO BE HELPFUL.

3. FOURIE EXPRESSED NO WILLINGNESS TO INVITE AN ON-SITE INSPECTION OF THE KALAHARI SITE. DURING OUR BRIEF CONVERSATION HE AGAIN NOTED THAT THIS WAS A SECRET MILITARY INSTALLATION REQUIRING THE APPROVAL OF MILITARY AUTHORITIES. HE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT "OUR MILITARY NO MORE WANTS FOREIGNERS PRYING AROUND THEIR SECRET INSTALLATION THAN YOURS DO."

4. SPEAKING OF THE LONGER TERM PICTURE, FOURIE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT US-SA NUCLEAR COOPERATION HAD FALLEN OFF DURING THE PAST 3-4 YEARS. IF THIS COOPERATION HAD REMAINED HIGH, HE OBSERVED, THE PRESENT MISUNDERSTANDING MIGHT NOT HAVE ARISEN. PREFACING HIS NEXT REMARKS WITH THE OBSERVATION THAT HE WAS NOT SUGGESTING BARGAINING OR HORSETRADING, HE SAID THAT IT WOULD HELP A GREAT DEAL IF THE US AND SA COULD DISCUSS SOUTH AFRICA'S NUCLEAR FUEL REQUIREMENTS AND REACH SOME KIND OF AN UNDERSTANDING. AS LONG AS YOU TRY TO CUT US OFF, HE ADDED, YOU MUST EXPECT THAT WE WILL SEARCH FOR OTHER WAYS TO SATISFY OUR NEEDS.

5. FOURIE AND I HAVE COORDINATED OUR WEEKEND PROGRAMS SO THAT  
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WE CAN EXPEDITE SENDING RESPONSE AS SOON AS RECEIVED FROM CAPE TOWN.

6. DEPT PASS TO BONN, LONDON AND PARIS AS APPROPRIATE.  
BOWDLER UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION, NUCLEAR WEAPONS, CAT-C, CHEROKEE 08/20/77, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, INSPECTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 20-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977STATE198999  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** DANDERSON  
**Enclosure:** FOR AMBASSADOR ONLY  
**Executive Order:** X3  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** N770005-0175  
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**Message ID:** 25b38457-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN NODS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** NODIS, ONLY  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** NODIS, ONLY  
**Reference:** 77 STATE 198014  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1537926  
**Secure:** LOCK1  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** POSSIBLE SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM  
**TAGS:** PARM, MNUC, SF, US  
**To:** BONN PARIS MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/25b38457-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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